

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 1, 3, 5, 7, 10, 11, 12, and 13, as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A decorative lighting apparatus, comprising:
control circuitry which includes a plurality of switch driver circuits including a first switch driver circuit, a second switch driver circuit, and a third switch driver circuit;
a plurality of color-control driver outputs from the ~~control circuitry~~ first, second, and third switch driver circuits for coupling to color-control terminals of each one of a plurality of color-controllable lights;
the color-control driver outputs including a red color-control driver output from the first switch driver circuit for coupling to each red color-control terminal of the color-controllable lights;
the color-control driver outputs including a green color-control driver output for coupling to each green color-control terminal of the color-controllable lights;
the color-control driver outputs including a blue color-control driver output for coupling to each blue color-control terminal of the color-controllable lights;
one or more set selection outputs from the control circuitry for selectively and individually enabling at least a first set of one or more of the color-controllable lights and a second set of one or more of the color-controllable lights; and
the control circuitry being operative to illuminate the color-controllable lights with a color scheme by repeatedly time-multiplexing color-control signals at the red, the green, and the blue color-control driver outputs to the first and the second sets of color-controllable lights with use of the one or more set selection outputs.
2. (Original) The decorative lighting apparatus of claim 1, wherein each color-controllable light comprises a Red-Green-Blue (RGB) Light-Emitting Diode (LED).

3. (Currently Amended) The decorative lighting apparatus of claim 1, further comprising:

the one or more set selection outputs from the control circuitry for selectively and individually enabling at least the first set, the second set, and a third set of one or more of the color-controllable lights; and

the control circuitry being operative to illuminate the color-controllable lights with the color scheme by repeatedly time-multiplexing color-control signals at the red, the green, and the blue color-control driver outputs to the first, the second, and the third sets of color-controllable lights with use of the one or more set selection outputs.

4. (Original) The decorative lighting apparatus of claim 1, further comprising:

the control circuitry being further operative to repeatedly time-multiplex the color-control signals at the color-control outputs at a rate of 32 Hertz or greater.

5. (Currently Amended) The decorative lighting apparatus of claim 1, further comprising:

the control circuitry being further operative to repeatedly time-multiplex the color-control signals at the color-control driver outputs at a rate sufficient such that the different sets of color-controllable lights appear to be simultaneously illuminated.

6. (Previously Presented) The decorative lighting apparatus of claim 1, further comprising:

wherein the first set is controlled to be illuminated with the first color and the second set is controlled to be illuminated with the second color.

7. (Currently Amended) The decorative lighting apparatus of claim 1, further comprising:

the control circuitry being further operative to illuminate a color of the color scheme in the color-controllable lights with use of pulse-width modulation (PWM) and/or current control at the color-control driver outputs.

8. (Previously Presented) The decorative lighting apparatus of claim 1, further comprising:

a decorative light strand along which the color-controllable lights are carried.

9. (Previously Presented) The decorative lighting apparatus of claim 1, wherein the different sets of color-controllable lights are positioned in a linear fashion along a decorative light strand such that each color-controllable light of each set is interleaved between color-controllable lights of the other set or sets.

10. (Currently Amended) The decorative lighting apparatus of claim 1, further comprising:

a housing; and

an interface connector attached to the housing which provides the plurality of color-control driver outputs for coupling to the color-control terminals of the color-controllable lights.

11. (Currently Amended) The decorative lighting apparatus of claim 1, further comprising:

a decorating selector which provides a plurality of user-selectable switch settings;
and

the control circuitry being further operative to illuminate the color-controllable lights with a different color scheme for each user selectable switch setting, by repeatedly time-multiplexing color-control signals at the color-control driver outputs to the first and the second sets of color-controllable lights.

12. (Currently Amended) The decorative lighting apparatus of claim 1, wherein each color-controllable light comprises a Red-Green-Blue (RGB) Light-Emitting Diode (LED) having the red color-control terminal, the green color-control terminal, and the blue color-control terminal, the decorative lighting apparatus further comprising:

each set selection output for coupling to one of the first and the second sets of color-controllable lights through their common anodes or common cathodes;

a housing;

the control circuitry being carried in the housing;

a decorating selector which provides a plurality of user-selectable switch settings;

and

the control circuitry being further operative to illuminate the color-controllable lights with a different color scheme for each user selectable switch setting, by repeatedly time-multiplexing color-control signals at the color-control driver outputs to the first and the second sets of color-controllable lights.

13. (Currently Amended) A method of illuminating a decorative lighting apparatus with one or more color schemes, comprising:

selecting a first set of color-controllable lights of the decorative lighting apparatus;

controlling a plurality of red, green, and blue color-control driver outputs which are coupled to red, green, and blue color-control terminals, respectively, of the first set of color-controllable lights to illuminate a first color in the first set of color-controllable lights, the red color-control driver output being from a first switch driver circuit, the green color-control driver output being from a second switch driver circuit, and the blue color-control driver output being from a third switch driver circuit;

selecting a second set of color-controllable lights of the decorative lighting apparatus;

controlling the plurality of red, green, and blue color-control driver outputs which are coupled to red, green, and blue color-control terminals, respectively, of the second set

of color-controllable lights to illuminate a second color in the second set of color-controllable lights; and

repeating the selecting and the controlling, in a time-multiplexed fashion, to produce a color scheme which includes the first color and the second color.

14. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein the color-controllable lights comprise color-controllable red-green-blue (RGB) light-emitting diodes (LEDs).

15. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 13, further comprising:
selecting a third set of color-controllable lights of the decorative lighting apparatus;

controlling the plurality of red, green, and blue color-control outputs which are coupled to red, green, and blue color-control terminals, respectively, of the third set of color-controllable lights to illuminate a third color in the third set of color-controllable lights; and

repeating the selecting and the controlling to produce the color scheme in the decorative lighting apparatus which includes the first, the second, and the third colors.

16. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein the first color is different from the second color.

17. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein the first color is the same as the second color.

18. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein the act of repeating is performed at rate sufficient such that the first and the second sets of color-controllable lights appear to be simultaneously illuminated.

19. (Original) The method of claim 13, further comprising:

receiving a user switch setting of a plurality of user-selectable switch settings associated with a plurality of color schemes of the decorative lighting apparatus; and selecting the color scheme in response to the user switch setting.

20. (Withdrawn) A decorative lighting apparatus, comprising:
a decorative light strand having a plurality of wires and a plurality of color-controllable lights positioned along the wires;
an interface connector coupled to a first end of the plurality of wires;
the interface connector including:
a first electrical contact coupled to red color-control terminals of the color-controllable lights;
a second electrical contact coupled to green color-control terminals of the color-controllable lights;
a third electrical contact coupled to blue color-control terminals of the color-controllable lights; and
one or more fourth electrical contacts for use in selectively enabling different light sets of the color-controllable lights for color control.

21. (Withdrawn) The decorative lighting apparatus of claim 20, wherein the interface connector comprises a male interface connector and the electrical contacts comprise male pin contacts.

22. (Withdrawn) The decorative lighting apparatus of claim 20, wherein the interface connector comprises a female interface connector and the electrical contacts comprise female pin contacts.

23. (Withdrawn) The decorative lighting apparatus of claim 20, wherein the plurality of color-controllable lights comprise color-controllable red-green-blue (RGB) light-emitting diodes (LEDs).

24. (Withdrawn) The decorative lighting apparatus of claim 20, further comprising:

wherein the plurality of color-controllable lights comprise color-controllable red-green-blue (RGB) light-emitting diodes (LEDs);

wherein the interface connector comprises a male interface connector and the electrical contacts comprise male pin contacts coupled to the first end of the plurality of wires;

a female interface connector coupled to a second end of the plurality of wires;

the female interface connector including:

a first female pin contact coupled to the red color-control terminals of the color-controllable lights;

a second female pin contact coupled to green color-control terminals of the color-controllable lights;

a third female pin contact coupled to blue color-control terminals of the color-controllable lights; and

one or more fourth female pin contacts for use in selectively enabling different light sets of the color-controllable lights for color control.

25. (Withdrawn) The decorative lighting apparatus of claim 20, wherein the at least a fourth electrical contact comprises two (2) or four (4) electrical contacts.